

What's Different @ work?

- Both Japanese and German companies are not used to having interns in the field of Engineering, so you are very likely to be the youngest person at your company (with a big age gap!).
- Internships in the US pay more because cost of education is high, and likewise, internships overseas tend to offer low pay because cost of education is low.
- Work culture is a little different in both countries. Tends to be all work no play, **but** they do take a lot of coffee/cake breaks!
- In Germany, though work hours are strict, overtime counts as vacation (flex time). A normal week is 35 hrs/week, so anything over that is flex time!
- Employees in Japan seem to stay until 8-9pm in the office, but they do not expect interns to do the same!! The Japanese companies respect that American work hours are 40 hrs/week.

Miscellaneous

- The 6-week intensive is very impactful, and not knowing the language before you begin is not a problem! Students who started with zero knowledge caught up to those who had some experience pretty quickly!!
- ICP alumni found that employees mostly wanted to practice their English on them, so they did not speak as much Japanese or German as expected.
- Solo travel is a great way to meet new people. Living in youth hostels + just chilling in the lobby and talking to people will go a long way!
- All allergies have a number associated with them, and are known around restaurants in the EU. The language is not required to convey your allergy information.
- Yes! You can do ACCEND and ICP!

Outside of Work

- Germany loves bread, greasy meat, and cheese.
- Japan does not have a lot of veggies in their diet, but expect lots of fish!
- It's important to be open to anything, and making friends will become easier. It's also important to join clubs and organizations outside the company, such as sports groups!
- Meetup is a great app to find groups. Here you can find culture/language exchange groups, travel groups, and more! Facebook groups are helpful too.

How'd you get the job?

- Everyone who went to Japan in 2018 got their co-ops through Gayle's connections (but you still have to apply!).
- Students who went to Germany used connections from past co-ops, Gayle, and from their own personal research. Someone even went to Austria!

Communication

- In Germany, getting phone service was simple. You can get a sim at a lot of small stores. They're usually \$10-15 a month. You can still use your phone outside of Germany as long as you're in the EU. Your phone service will notify you if your data can work at the new country upon entrance (via text).
- Students in Japan didn't buy a sim, instead they got a pocket wi-fi device that provided internet everywhere they went.
- WhatsApp is a great app to communicate abroad. Free international calls and texts!

Housing/Living Situation

- Japanese companies will 99% of the time provide housing (which helps offset the low pay).
 - This housing is usually dorm-style, where you will have your own room, but bathrooms and amenities are typically communal. Some dorms may have cafeterias.
- Go to your work supervisor(s) for housing advice!
- Finding housing in Germany can be challenging, but <https://www.wg-gesucht.de/en/wohnraumbote.html> is a great resource that many ICP German students used.
- It's not uncommon to apply for, and interview for an apartment.
- Finding housing new a college makes finding groups of people your age easier. It depends on your city though.

The "bad" news

- Some Japanese companies will not get you any vacation days or at most one per month. Golden Week is not a paid vacation.
- It's extremely important to make an effort to keep up the language after the intensive course, because you go from studying it from 9-4 everyday to just two classes a week.
- Be extremely frugal during the work week. Explore and travel during the weekend!
- Some people for Germany didn't find housing until their first or second week there, *however* you can go to Germany early (after Fall semester) to look for housing.